



PO Box 3431
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www.fomelc.org

January 2021 Newsletter



(First Patrol of 2021 – Resthouse Trail, Picture by Peter Vrolijk)

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JOIN OUR TEAM NOW!

Alan Rockwood

As a subscriber of FOMELC's Newsletters you know the value of "Wilderness" -- Mount Evans, Lost Creek and all the Wildernesses aside and preserved in their natural state for future generations. As a grandparent the following ethic has always resonated with me.

"We do not inherit wilderness from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children."
Native American Proverb

2020 was an unprecedented year in so many ways. (I know that's overused but for good reason.) For stewardship, two factors in particular collided this past year linked to COVID-19. First was the surge in people using public lands including wildernesses near the Denver/Front Range area. Further with continued population growth in Colorado, we expect more increases of visitors in 2021 – a surge upon a surge. Second were the limits on our ability to recruit and train new volunteers during the pandemic. **NOW, WE NEED NEW VOLUNTEERS FOR THE 2021 SEASON!**

Have you been thinking about volunteering and giving back to the lands you so treasure and enjoy? This is the time to do it. There are so many ways you can help our precious wilderness lands as a FOMELC/U.S. Forest Service Volunteer. They don't all require picks and cross-cut saws.

Our task begins with **trail patrols and surveys** collecting information on conditions including deadfall on trails, missing signage, severe erosion, needed bridge repairs and noxious weed infestations to list a few – **hiking with a purpose**. Those data motivate specific projects.

Trail maintenance crews clear the trails of deadfall, build "water-bars" and "check-dams", repair or replace bridges, and groom trail corridors for horseback riders and hikers alike.

Native habitat restoration includes the inventory of illegal and/or unsustainable campsites and then evidences of the site are removed and revegetation is supported. We also focus on impacts of "user developed trails".

Noxious weed eradication is perhaps the most important element of preserving healthy native habitats. Human actions have created the problems of invasive species, but we can and are reversing the damage in wilderness areas.

Wilderness education is even more important with the increases in population and usage of wilderness lands. One of our newest and most valued activities are "trailhead host" programs reminding visitors of how to enjoy wilderness without leaving a trace. We have outreach booths at community events, offer school programs and a youth wilderness camp in Park County.

What will be your stewardship legacy?

[SIGN UP NOW](#)

It is too soon to tell how COVID-19 will impact our 2021 summer season, but there will be needs for volunteers. Many types of projects can still be undertaken in a manner with low risk. Trail patrols are always needed. Weed projects normally work at "social distances". The same is true for corridor clearing. The cross-cut sawyers will clear the trails. Please let us know your interests and we will be making plans to provide the necessary training.



OTHER WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT FOMELC

As noted above, FOMELC needs volunteers in the field making patrols, clearing trails, eradicating invasive weeds.... We pride ourselves as a "boots-on-the-ground" outfit. But, to do those projects, it takes an organization behind the scenes. Perhaps your skills fit there.

Crew leadership - have experience with these types of projects and ready to do more? We need volunteers that will step up and lead field crews.

Photography and videography - to sustain recruitment and prepare successful grant applications and reports, high quality visual documentation of what we do is essential.

Webpage maintenance and enhancement - join our team to maintain and enhance the FOMELC website. What incredibly rich content we have to work with!

Social media communications - today a website is just the beginning point for communicating with the potential audience for wilderness stewardship. You can help us expand our reach on other platforms.

FOMELC social and training events – as an all-volunteer organization we need a good party. We work hard and enjoy the camaraderie at the end of day or end of the season. If your skills lean toward arranging events, let us know. Please tell us how you would like to support our programs in the field or with our management team.
CONTACT US.



Alan

FOMELC Fundraising Update

THANK YOU!

In 2020, FOMELC launched its second annual giving campaign, and the response was amazing! We were able to raise a total of \$4,110 from many different donors. Thank you to all who contributed to our 100% volunteer non-profit organization. This money will go toward continuing to support our defense of Wilderness, recruiting and marketing, and putting together programs for our members.

DONATE

[Or mail a check to Friends of Mount Evans and Lost Creek Wilderness](#)
[PO Box 34](#)
[Evergreen, CO 80439](#)

Join Us for Our February Meeting Via ZOOM

Kay Hoisington



The February meeting will be held via Zoom on **Wednesday February 24th at 7 pm.**



Our guest speaker for February, **Dr. Robert Stencel**, will give a presentation on *Science Atop Mt. Evans*.

Following graduate study in astronomy at the University of Michigan, Dr. Stencel worked at NASA in Houston and Greenbelt sites and also at NASA Headquarters in Washington DC, prior to joining Denver University in 1993 where he teaches astronomy and astrophysics. His scientific publications number in excess of 500.

Please RSVP to kay@fomelc.org if you wish to attend the session.
Looking forward to continuing our monthly meetings with you.

Kay

Note from the Chair

Peter Vrolijk

Grinding Out the Wait



Mount Evans viewed from Bergen Peak, New Year's Day, 2020.

Past the solstice and already daylight lingers a few minutes more in the evening. We wait for the arrival of snow that will allow us to venture into wilderness on snowshoes or spring that will once and for all rid us of the wretched ice covering trails. But the stillness remains, the feeling of being alone in the vast wild areas where nature rules.

At home again by the fire with the wind howling outside, my thoughts turn to the work of the following summer when the trees certainly being felled by the wind will need to be cleared from trails. Who will get out on the trails to start recording the locations of downed trees? Who among us will help undertake the work needed to sustain wilderness?

Now is the time to ask – how can I persuade my friends and neighbors to join our volunteer efforts? Have I taken advantage of the spring training program to help make my efforts more valuable? If not, why not? Perhaps there is still time for one more New Year's resolution, to bring you and a friend to spring training or avail yourself of the many volunteer opportunities described in this newsletter.

Peter

FOMELC Grant from Platte Canyon Community Partnership

Gordon Brown

If you haven't visited the Resale Boutique in Bailey, then you're missing out on shopping at the cutest, friendliest shop around. Platte Canyon Community Partnership (PCCP) is a non-profit run totally by volunteers. Their purpose is to promote community partnerships through financial contributions primarily through sales at the shop. In the four years they've been welcoming people into their shop, PCCP has given out more than \$65,000 in grants.



FOMELC Display at the Resale Boutique

This past November, Friends of Mt. Evans and Lost Creek Wilderness (FOMELC) was the lucky recipient of one of these grants. In exchange for volunteer hours in the boutique by members of our organization, we were given \$3,200. This money will greatly help support our group in maintaining the miles of trails in these two wild spaces, buying nature safe chemicals to eradicate several invasive species of weeds and educating both young and old in the ways they can leave no trace while enjoying the wilderness.

I'm also pleased to announce that PCCP has selected FOMELC to receive a 2021 grant for our successful support of their organization in 2020. November will be our beneficiary month.

Like the Boutique, members of FOMELC are all volunteers whose primary goal is preserving our wilderness for future generations. If you enjoy a weekend hike or overnight camping trip, please join us in thanking PCCP for their generosity. Any time you travel through Bailey, stop at the Resale Boutique to shop. If you're interested in joining our organization or finding out more about us, please visit our website at www.fomelc.org. We're always looking for people who don't mind a little hard work while enjoying the beauty of our mountains. Aldo Leopold, a renowned ecologist of the early 1900's, once wrote, "I am glad I will not be young in a future without wilderness." Please join us as we work to make sure this does not happen.

Gordon

FOMELC Photo Contest

Deb Grass

Show off your Mount Evans & Lost Creek Wilderness Photos

We thought a photo 'contest' would be fun way to engage FOMELC volunteers and our newsletter readers and promote the pristine beauty of Mount Evans and Lost Creek Wildernesses.

A subcommittee of the FOMELC Board will review submissions and the winning photo each month will be featured in our newsletter and on our website gallery page. Runner up photos will also be included on our website.

When does the contest begin?

The photo contest will begin immediately and will continue monthly throughout 2021.

Each month the Board committee will review the photos submitted and determines the winner and runner up.

What are the photo guidelines?

You must be signed up for our newsletter to submit photos. If you are NOT signed up for our newsletter, please contact us using one of the forms on our website Each individual may submit no more than 2 photos (in .jpeg format) per month. Photos should be submitted to photos@fomelc.org and should include the photo location and any personal thoughts you may have about the photo or area.

Photos may not include people or dogs (landscape and flora/fauna only).

The deadline to submit is the 20th of each month. If you want your photo(s) considered for the February newsletter, they must be received by the 20th of February.

Winners shall be determined based upon the review of judges of how well the photos represent the wilderness characteristics of the Mount Evans or Lost Creek Wilderness areas.

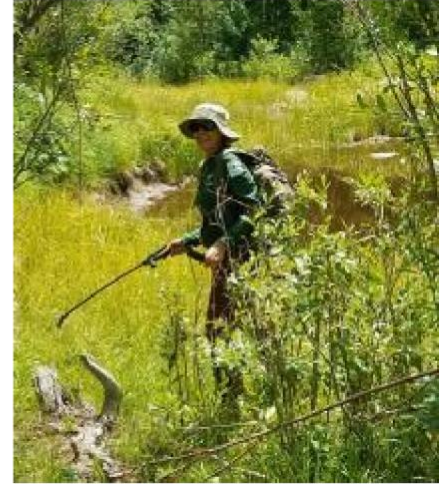
There shall be no payments made to volunteers submitting the photos.

By submitting your photos, you allow the FOMELC to use them as the Board deems appropriate. Submissions do not have any copyright protection. Your name will be displayed with the photo on the FOMELC newsletter and website.

Deb

**The idea of wilderness
Needs no defense.
It only needs more defenders**

- *Edward Abbey*



FOMELC Mission Statement:

The Mount Evans and Lost Creek Wildernesses encompass 194,400 acres with over 170 miles of trails in Colorado's Pike and Arapaho National Forests.

We work in partnership with the US Forest Service, engaging in education, outreach and stewardship activities to preserve the wilderness character of these lands for current and future generations.

How do I become a volunteer with FOMELC?

Check out our [website](#) to sign up.

Friends of Mount Evans and Lost Creek Wildernesses
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